

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:297
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
RESERVATION OF WOMEN IN PANCHAYATS
Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to implement reservation of women in the panchayats and the local bodies; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ(SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a)&(b): Since 1993, when the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 came into effect, 1/3rd of the seats and chairpersonships at all three tiers of the Panchayati Raj system have been reserved for women in consonance with the provisions of clauses 2 and 3 of Article 243 D given below:

Article 243 D:

.....

(2) Not less than one-third of the total number of seats reserved under clause (1) shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes or, as the case may be, the Scheduled Tribes.

(3) Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat shall be reserved for women and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat.

The actual representation of women in Panchayats has progressively increased over the two to three rounds of elections since the 73rd Amendment came into force and often exceeds 1/3rd proportion. Details of representation of women in Panchayats in the three tiers of Panchayats are given State-wise in the Annexe. Substantial number of women do contest and win from general seats. Some States have also mandated reservation for women in excess of the 1/3rd proportion prescribed in Article 243 D of the Constitution. For instance, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh have reserved 50% seats for women in all the three tiers of Panchayats while Sikkim has reserved 40% of the seats.

TABLE 1: NO. OF PANCHAYATS AND ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN THE THREE TIERS OF PANCHAYATS IN STATES/UTs as per latest available information.

Sl.No. States/UT No. of Panchayats No. of Elected Representatives

Total Women

States :	No.	%			
1. Andhra Pradesh	22945	224003	74019	33.04	
2. Arunachal Pradesh	1789	8260	3183	38.54	
3. Assam	2431	25436	9903	38.93	
4. Bihar	9040	130091	70400	54.12	

5.	Chhattisgarh	9982	160386	54102	33.73
6.	Goa	191	1045	534	51.10
7.	Gujarat	14068	114187	38068	33.30
8.	Haryana	6325	69805	25503	36.53
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3330	6325	9128	33.47
10.	Jharkhand	3979	0	0	
11.	Karnataka	5856	96090	41210	42.89
12.	Kerala	1165	12860	5614	43.65
13.	Madhya Pradesh	23412	396516	136196	34.34
14.	Maharashtra	28277	229740	76581	33.33
15.	Manipur	169	1736	758	43.66
16.	Orissa	6578	92454	33630	36.37
17.	Punjab	12604	90963	31809	34.97
18.	Rajasthan	9457	119975	42434	35.39
19.	Sikkim	258	986	394	39.96
20.	Tamil Nadu	13031	116488	39364	33.79
21.	Tripura	540	5733	1986	34.64
22.	Uttar Pradesh	52890	771661	299025	38.75
23.	Uttarakhand	7335	7335	2485	33.88
24.	West Bengal	3713	58828	21351	36.29

Union Territories

25. A & N Islands	75	856	296	34.58
26. Chandigarh	14	125	42	33.6
27. D & N Haveli	12	125	49	39.2
28. Daman & Diu	15	97	37	38.14
29. Lakshadweep	11	110	41	37.27
30. Puducherry	108	1021	370	36.24
TOTAL	239600	2519234	1018512	40.42